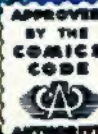


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THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI.

# MASTER OF KUNG FU



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TM



GENE  
DAY



DWELLER BY THE DARK STREAM!



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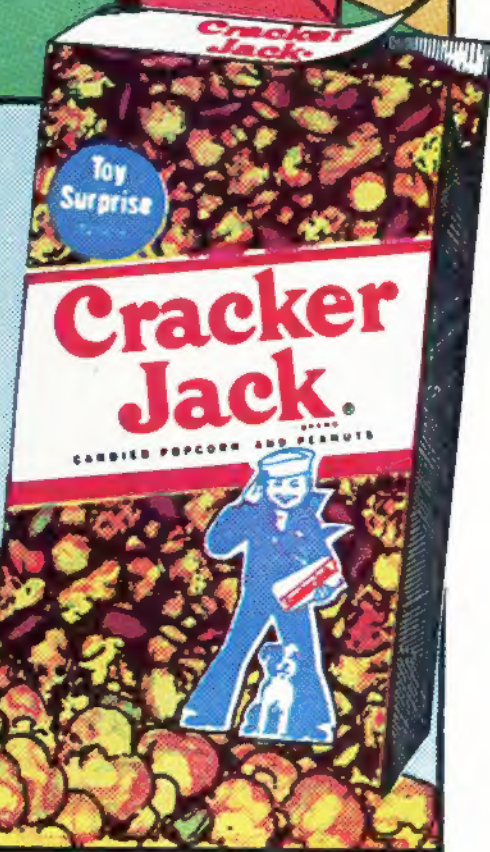
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"Call me Shang-Chi, as my father did, when he raised me in the vacuum of his Honan, China retreat. I learned many things from my father: that my name means 'The Rising and Advancing of a Spirit,' and that my body could be forged into a living weapon through the discipline of kung fu. Since then, I have learned that my father is Dr. Fu Manchu, the most insidiously evil man on Earth... and that to honor him would bring nothing but dishonor to the spirit of my name."

# Stan Lee PRESENTS: MASTER OF KUNG FU!

Featuring supporting characters created by SAX ROHMER

"CAN THE PIPES  
CRY TONIGHT?"

"AYE, THEY CRY IN THE DEEP GLOAMING, OVER  
CRAGGY TOR AND MISTY MOOR, THROUGH SHADOWED  
WOOD AND HEATHER'D DALE."

"THEY CRY LIKE  
FIERCE WIND  
THROUGH HIGH  
BRANCHES, GIVEN  
LIFE BY THE  
BREATH OF THE  
PIPER... AND SO  
SWEETLY THEY  
WEEP FOR THE  
SPIRITS OF THOSE  
WHO HAVE GONE  
BEFORE, AND  
FALLEN." --  
SCOTTISH LAMENT

SCRIPTER  
DOUG  
MOENCH  
PENCILER  
& INKER  
GENE  
DAY

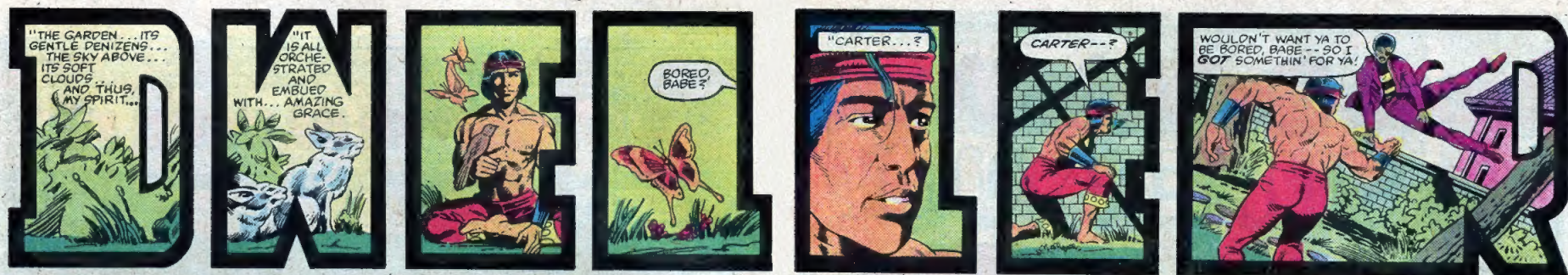
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SCHEELE

LETTERER  
JANICE  
CHIANG

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all the great  
tasting flavors!!!





WHEN THE TIME COMES,  
BABE, I'LL BE READY TO SMOKE,  
DON'T YOU FRET. COME SEPTEMBER,  
I'LL BE A RAGIN'--

AND WHAT IF THE  
TIME CAME UNEXPECTEDLY,  
CARTER-- RIGHT NOW IN  
JULY?

HAH! Y'GOT A  
STONE-COLD-GEN-  
YEW-WINE GRADE-A  
POINT THERE, BABE--  
AND WHY IS IT THAT  
I ALWAYS LAPSE INTO  
MY BOGUS JIVE ACT  
WHenever I'M IN  
YOUR VICINITY?

MUST  
BE BECAUSE  
YOU'RE SO  
BLAMED  
STRAIGHT.

NICE HEAP O'  
ROCK, THIS STORM-  
HAVEN CASTLE  
HERE-- YOUR PAL  
NAYLAND SMITH IS  
BIG ON STATUES,  
IS HE?

NOW COME ON--  
YOUR ESPIONAGE  
BUDDIES WON'T  
MISS YOU FOR A  
WHILE--AND BE-  
SIDES, WE'VE GOT  
A JOB TO DO,  
RIGHT HERE IN  
BONNIE SCOTLAND,  
SO LET'S BOTH  
TAKE THE HIGH ROAD,  
SHALL WE?

"WHY NOT?"

"LEIKO IS IN  
LONDON FOR THE  
WEEK, AND TARR  
AND RESTON HAVE  
BEEN PLAYING  
CHESS FOR  
THREE DAYS  
NOW..."

VERY WELL  
CARTER--AT  
LEAST FOR  
THE RIDE.

"BESIDES,  
CARTER HAS  
ALREADY  
DESTROYED  
THE GRACE OF  
MEDITATION..."

"...AND PERHAPS,  
WITH HIS CONSTANT  
AND AMAZING  
DISTRACTION, I WILL  
BE ABLE TO SLIP  
EVEN FARTHER  
FROM MEMORIES  
OF MY FATHER...  
FU MANCHU."



THEN YOU ARE STILL INVOLVED  
IN THE CIA'S DEADLY GAMES,  
CARTER?

AW, C'MON,  
BABE, GIMME A  
BREAK-- YOUR OWN  
EYES SAW ME TORCH  
MY COMPANY I.D.  
CARD...

I'M A **FREELANCE**  
OPERATIVE NOW-- JUST  
LIKE YOU AN' LEIKO AN'  
RESTON AN' THE OTHER  
HONCHOS AT STORMHAVEN.

OH? AND WITH YOUR  
PREVIOUS CIA EXPERIENCE,  
YOU HAVE NO DOUBT  
BEEN SUCCESSFUL.

EE-NORMOUSLY, BABE!  
THEY'VE TAKEN TO CALLIN'  
ME THE **EBONY BOND**!

AIN'T NO ASSIGNMENT  
TOO PERILOUS FOR THE  
PRIVATE EYE WITH BUT  
ONE EYE-- BUT **WHAT**  
AN EYE!

I SEE. HOW MANY  
ASSIGNMENTS HAVE  
YOU HAD?

UH, WELL... AIN'T BEEN  
THAT LONG SINCE I RETIRED  
FROM THE CIA, Y'KNOW, AND...  
WELL, TRUTH IS, BABE...

THIS IS ACTUALLY  
MY FIRST CASE.

IF IT WASN'T  
FOR MY EARNINGS  
AS THE UNDISPUTED  
HEAVYWEIGHT  
CHAMPION OF THE  
FULL-CONTACT  
KARATE ASSOCI-  
ATION, I'D BE UP  
THE CREEK.

ANYWAY, WEIRD  
SCOTTIE GUY FROM THE  
HIGHLANDS SEES MY LISTING  
IN THE LONDON PHONE BOOK,  
WRITES ME A LETTER ABOUT  
THE GHOSTS OF ANCIENT FORCES  
STIRRING UP ENEMIES  
FOR HIM IN THE HERE  
AND NOW--

-- TRYING TO STEAL  
HIS ANCESTRAL LAND  
OR SOMESUCH.

WANTS ME TO HELP  
HIM HOLD THE FORT.  
SO I MAKE A FEW  
PHONE CALLS TO THE  
LOCAL AUTHORITIES  
AND THEY SAY IT'S  
ON THE UP AND UP--

-- SOLICITORS COMING  
ROUND WITH SUPPOSED  
PROOF OF DISCREPANCIES  
IN THE DEED, CLAIMING  
TO REPRESENT THE TRUE  
OWNERS OF THE LAND.

BUT OLD JOCK  
MCBRIDIE, THEY TELL  
ME, REFUSES TO  
BUDGE-- STUBBORN  
LIKE YOU-- JUST  
MARCHES AROUND  
AND AROUND UP ON  
HIS HILL, PLAYING  
HIS BAGPIPES DAWN  
TO DUSK IN SOME  
HEATHEN ACT OF  
DEFIANCE.

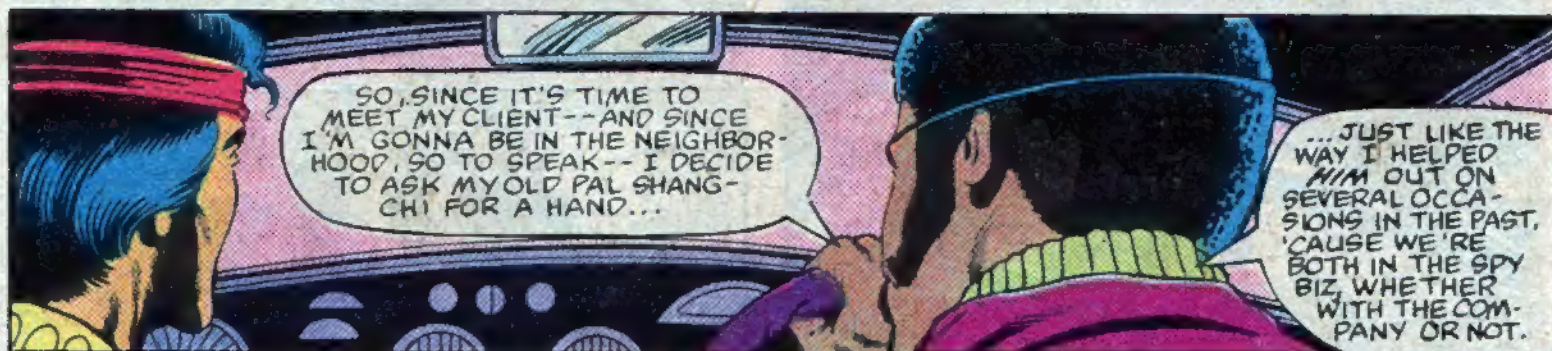




THEY SAY IT LOOKS LIKE HE'LL HAVE TO BE MOVED BY FORCE.

SO I DECIDE, UNLIKE THE AUTHORITIES, TO CHECK WITH THE OFFICE OF DEEDS-- AND LO, AND BEHOLD, EVERYTHING'S KOSHER ON JOCK'S SIDE.

THE LAND IS MCBRIDIE LAND FREE AND CLEAR-- BEEN IN THE FAMILY FOR CENTURIES.



SO, SINCE IT'S TIME TO MEET MY CLIENT-- AND SINCE I'M GONNA BE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD, SO TO SPEAK-- I DECIDE TO ASK MY OLD PAL SHANG-CHI FOR A HAND...

...JUST LIKE THE WAY I HELPED HIM OUT ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS IN THE PAST, 'CAUSE WE'RE BOTH IN THE SPY BIZ, WHETHER WITH THE COMPANY OR NOT.



AWRIGHT? SO MAYBE THE CASE AIN'T A BEAUT-- MAYBE IT DON'T INVOLVE GLOBE-TROTTIN' SPIES SEEKIN' WORLD DOMINATION...

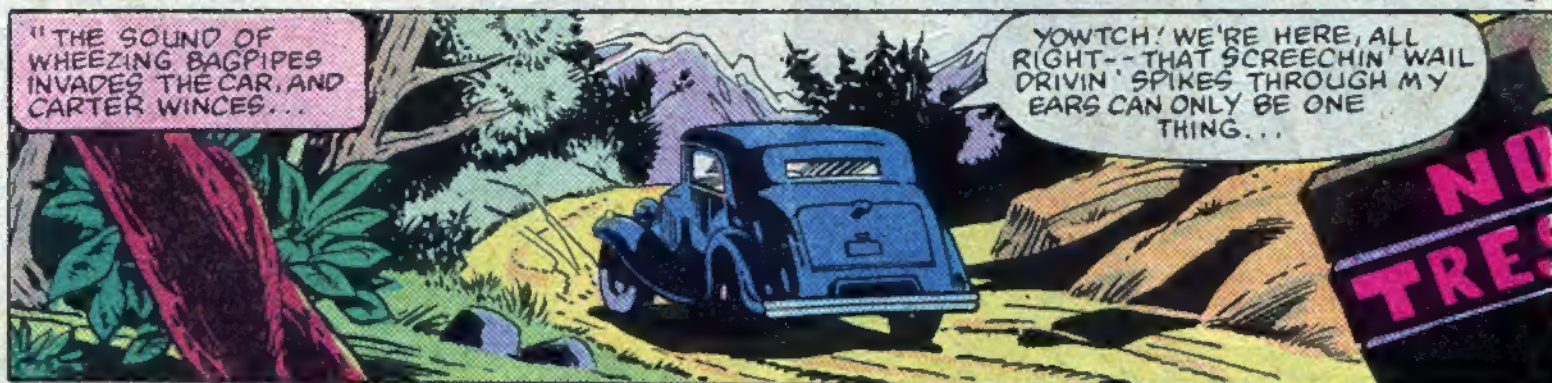
MAYBE IT'S JUST SOME TWO-BIT SWINPLE SOLVED BY A XEROX COPY OF THE DEED...



...AND MAYBE I CALLED ON YA, BABE, BECAUSE I WAS BORED-- BUT YA GOTTA ADMIT, ONE THING WE'RE GOOD AT, YOU AN' ME, IS REGALIN' EACH OTHER WITH SCINTILLATIN' CONVERSATIONAL DISCOURSE. RIGHT?

RIGHT.

RIIIGHT! NOW, WE SHOULD BE JUST ABOUT--



"THE SOUND OF WHEEZING BAGPIPES INVADERS THE CAR, AND CARTER WINCES...

YOWTCH! WE'RE HERE, ALL RIGHT-- THAT SCREECHIN' WAIL DRIVIN' SPIKES THROUGH MY EARS CAN ONLY BE ONE THING...

NO TREES





... CRAZY JOCK  
MCBRIDIE, MY CLIENT  
AND YOURS, BABE,  
WORKIN' OUT ON  
HIS PIPES.

AND LOOK  
AT THAT, BABE--  
AN EAGLE  
CIRCLIN' HIM!!

MUSTA BEEN  
DRIVEN BATTY BY  
THE SOUND, POOR THING.  
HEY! STOP A MINUTE!  
YOU JOCK MCBRIDIE!  
I'M RUFUS CARTER!  
I'VE COME TO--

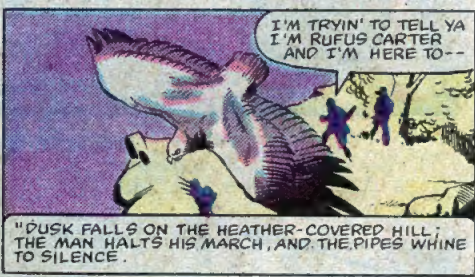


HEY! I SAID I'M RUFUS  
CARTER AND I'VE COME TO--



FOR  
CRYIN'  
OUT LOUD,  
MAN,  
THAT'S  
THE  
WORST  
NOISE  
I EVER  
HEARD!

CAN'T YA COOL  
IT FOR JUST  
A MINUTE?



I'M TRYIN' TO TELL YA  
I'M RUFUS CARTER  
AND I'M HERE TO--

"DUSK FALLS ON THE HEATHER-COVERED HILL.  
THE MAN HALTS HIS MARCH, AND THE PIPES WHINE  
TO SILENCE."



YOU MUST BE  
RUFUS CARTER.

EH--? I'M AFRAID  
MY HEAD'S STILL  
VIBRATIN' FROM  
YOUR LITTLE  
SERENADE!...

AYE, SOME THEY IS AS SAY  
THE ONNY PURPOSE O' THE  
PIPES IS FER CLEARIN' OOT  
THE LUGS.



LUGS--?

THAT'D BE EARS TO YOU, SON.

NOW--WHAT  
DID YOU JUST  
SAY?



I SAID-- THE ONE WI' THE EYEPATCH AN' SUN-BURN MUST BE RUFUS "ONE-EYE" CARTER. NOW WHO'S YER SIDEKICK, LAD?



DON'T S'POSE YOU EVER HEARD O' TONTO? WELL, NEITHER HAS SHANG-CHI HERE AND HE'S A CULTURED MAN. SO THE PATCH GAVE ME AWAY, HUH?



THE PATCH--? PINNA BE RIDICULOUS, MON. I'M YER BIGGEST FAN. I SAW YE DEFEAT JEN-KINS--MADE A SPECIAL JOURNEY TAE LONDON FER IT.



REALLY? YOU WERE THERE FOR MY SUPER MIDNIGHT? YOU SAW ME WIN THE HEAVY-WEIGHT CROWN?--



AYE! WHY ARE YE THINKIN' I PICKED YE OUTTA THE PHONE BOOK?-- ALTHOUGH YER KICKS COULD USE A WEE BIT MORE ZING, DO YE KEN?



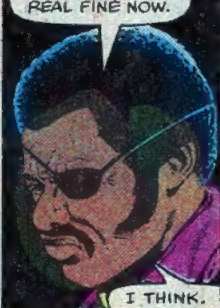
KEN--?



KNOW, KEN MEANS "KNOW," DO YE KEN?



UH... AYE, I KEN REAL FINE NOW.



I THINK.



WULL THEN, SINCE THE GLOAMIN' LL BE SETTLIN' ON THE HEATHER NOO, WHAT SAY WE ROAM ON POON TO MUH POOR HOME, EH?



WHATEVER YOU SAY, JOCK, M'MAN.

YOUR MOUTH, CARTER, HAS MET ITS MATCH.

"AT THE HILL'S BOTTOM-- SPRYLY AND WITHOUT HESITATION-- JOCK MCBRIDIE SKIPS ACROSS STEPPING STONES RISING FROM A DARK STREAM."

I HOPE YE'VE ET.

-- 'CAUSE YOU'LL NO BE FINDIN' ONNYTHIN' HERE TILL BREAKFAST.

IF YOU'RE TALKIN' FOOD JOCK, ACTUALLY WE HAVEN'T



"CARTER CURSES."



"ACROSS THE STREAM,  
WE ENTER A RICKETY  
SHACK..."

PARDON ME  
FOR SAYING SO,  
MR. MCBRIDIE, BUT  
YOU WEREN'T KID-  
DING WHEN YOU  
SAID YOUR HOME  
WAS POOR...

YE'LL GET YER FEE,  
MR. CARTER, DON'T FRET  
YERSELF NONE ON THAT  
ACCOUNT.

"CARTER BITES HIS TONGUE."

NO, I DIDN'T  
MEAN THAT, I JUST  
MEANT--

AYE, 'TIS A SAD STATE WHEN THE  
LAIRD O' THE ANCESTRAL MANOR IS  
FORCED TAE SUBSIST IN SUCH SQUALOR  
AN' POVERTY.

ESPECIALLY WHEN  
YE SET YER MIND  
UPON THE BYGONE  
GLORY OF THE  
MCBRIDIE CASTLE  
SPILLED IN DECAY  
OUTSIDE-- JUST  
PAST THE GRAVE-  
YARD HOLDIN' THE  
BONES OF EVERY  
MCBRIDIE LAIRD  
WHO EVER LIVED  
THERE...

... EXCEPTIN'  
ONE, AN' THE  
ONE'S ME, MORE'S  
THE SHAME OF  
IT...

ONNY THE STREAM-- THE  
DARK BEAUTY OF THE  
STREAM-- REMAINS  
UNTOUCHED BY CRUEL  
TIME-- AN' IT'S THE  
STREAM WHICH SEES  
ME THROUGH THIS  
TIME O' TRIAL...

... PROVIDIN' ME  
WATER FIT TAE DRINK  
AND FOOD FIT TAE  
CONSUME.

I THOUGHT YOUR  
LETTER MENTIONED  
A CASTLE...

AYE, A CASTLE  
IT ONCE WAS, AND  
EVEN THOUGH IT BE  
A WERE PILE O' STONES  
NOO, A CASTLE I  
MEAN TO MAKE IT  
AGAIN--

--AN' I'LL NOT LET THE GHOSTS  
OF THE EVIL MCKINNONG STIR UP  
THOSE AS THINKS THEY CAN STEAL  
IT FROM ME!

MCBRIDIE... IF YOU  
COULD EXPLAIN YOUR  
MENTION OF GHOSTS...

AYE, SHANG-CHI, BUT I'LL  
HAVE TO START BACK IN THE  
TIME WHEN THE HIGHLANDS  
WERE STILL THE PROVINCE OF  
FIERCE HILL CLANS--

--THE MCBRIDIES AN'  
THE MCKINNONG CHIEF  
AMONG THEM...



"THE MCKINNONS  
AND THE MCBRIDES  
ALWAYS LOATHED  
ONE ANOTHER..."

THE  
FOREST

LOCH  
LIAM

THE  
DAM

**X**

HERE  
PERISHED  
LIAM  
MCBRIDE

THE  
HIGH  
MOUNTS

"RETALIATION, OF COURSE,  
WAS SWIFT AND SUCCESSFUL--  
BUT LIAM, THE EAGLE, WAS  
DEAD... AND THE STOLEN MAP  
WAS NEVER FOUND."

"AN' THAT WAS THE BEGINNIN' O' THE SAD DECLINE  
OF THE MCBRIDES-- FOR THREE GENERATIONS, WHILE  
THE CASTLE SLIPPED FARTHER AND FARTHER INTO  
DISREPAIR, WE'VE HAD TAE PATROL THE ANCESTRAL  
LAND, KEEPIN' CONSTANT VIGIL FOR MCKINNONS  
WIELDIN' SWORD OR SHOVEL, LEST THEY STEAL THE  
BURIED TREASURE."

"... BUT WHEN MY  
GREAT-GREAT-GREAT  
GRANDFATHER LIAM  
MCBRIDE-- THE EAGLE,  
THEY CALLED HIM--  
RETURNED WITH HIS  
FORTUNE FROM THE SEA,  
THE SIMMERIN' FEUD  
TURNED TO BLOOD."

THE MOOR

CASTLE OF  
LIAM  
MCBRIDE

"AND IT DIDN'T END  
UNTIL A PACK O' THE  
MCKINNONS HOWLED  
DOWN THE HILLS  
WITH THEIR GREAT  
CLAYMORES STRIKIN'  
FIRE FROM THE SUN--  
TO SLAY OLD LIAM  
MCBRIDE, SPILLIN'  
HIS BLOOD INTO THE  
DARK STREAM BEFORE  
HE HAD A CHANCE TO  
SPEND A SINGLE  
COIN OF HIS FORTUNE."

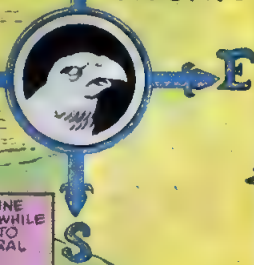
THE MCBRIDE  
GRAVEYARD

THE  
STREAM

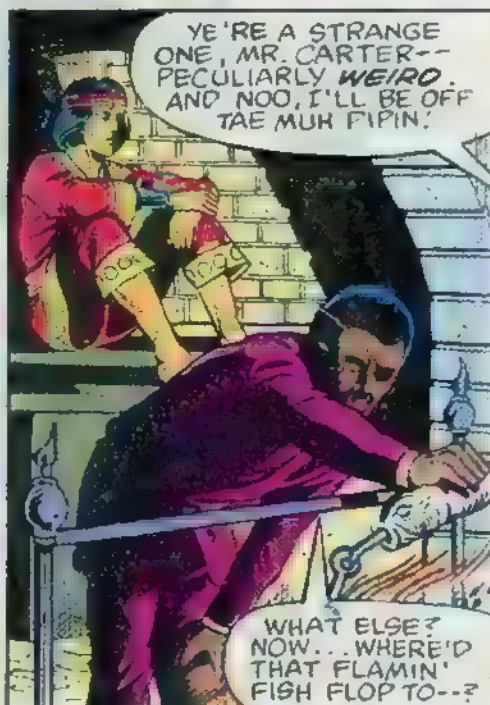
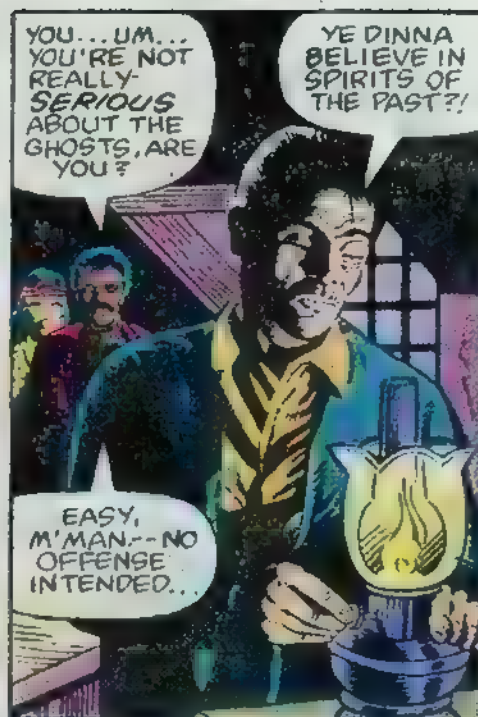
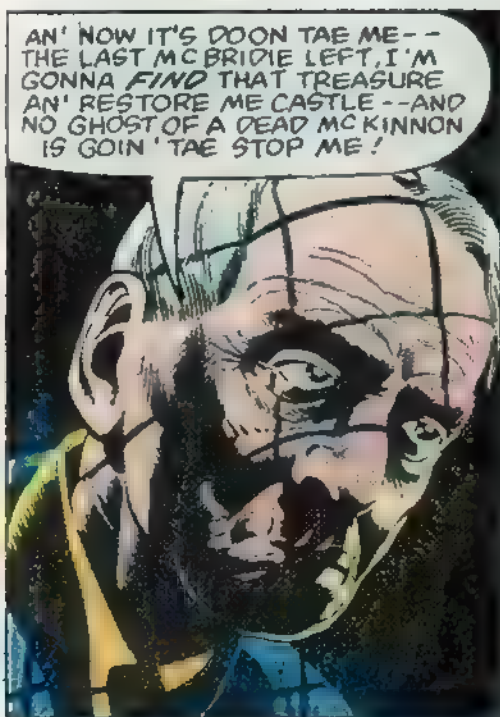
THE  
HUT

"AN' WHAT'S WORSE--  
THEY THIEVED THE MAP  
SHOWIN' WHERE THE  
TREASURE WAS BURIED."

THE  
HIGH  
MOUNTS











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MC1-83



"AND WHEN THE FISH IS NO MORE..."

C'MON, BABE-- MIGHT AS WELL HEAD FOR THE LOCAL RECORDS OFFICE, NAIL DOWN THAT XEROX COPY, SEW UP THE CASE, AND SWALLOW MY FEE.

SOME FIRST CASE.

THEN YOU DON'T BELIEVE HIM ABOUT THE TREASURE?

I DON'T BELIEVE THAT CRAZY OLD COOT ABOUT ANYTHING, BABE, EXCEPT THE FACT THAT THIS IS HIS LAND.

HE COULDN'T EVEN BEGIN TO PAY ME A SINGLE PENNY OF--

"BEYOND THE BREEZE, THE BAGPIPES FALTER..."

UH OH-- UP ON THE HILL WITH JOCKO-- TWO CHUMPS DOIN' AN ENCORE OF MY LAST NIGHT'S ACT-- TRYIN' TO GET HIM TO STOP PIPIN' AND START TALKIN'...

ONLY THEY AIN'T BEIN' AS POLITE ABOUT IT-- LOOKS LIKE TROUBLE, BABE.

YA STUBBORN OLD CUGS! YOU'VE GOT TO MOVE OFF THIS LAND!

THESE DOCUMENTS PROVE IT!

ARE WE GETTING THROUGH TO YE, MCBRIDIE? IF YOU DON'T LEAVE THIS LAND VOLUNTARILY--

WE'RE GONNA KICK YOUR TAILS RIGHT OFF THIS HILL.

WHAT? WHO ARE YOU--?

REPRESENTATIVES OF MR. MCBRIDIE-- HIRED TO SEE THAT HE ISN'T INTIMIDATED BY TWO-BIT SWINDLERS.

THEN THAT MUST BE THEIR CAR AT THE BOTTOM OF THE HILL.

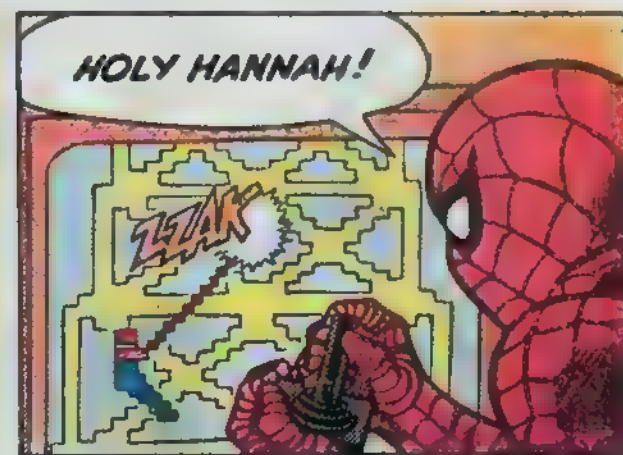
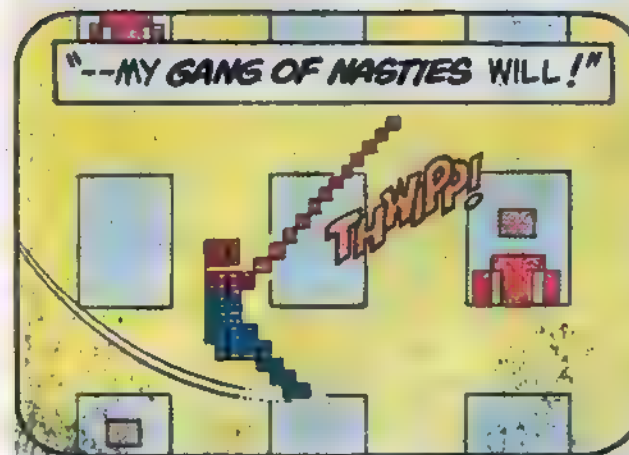
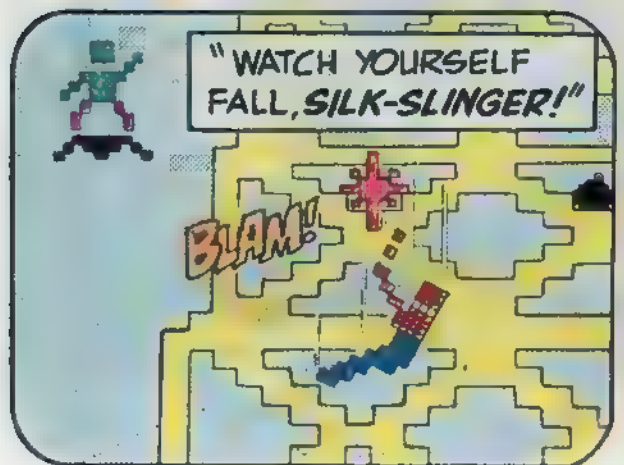
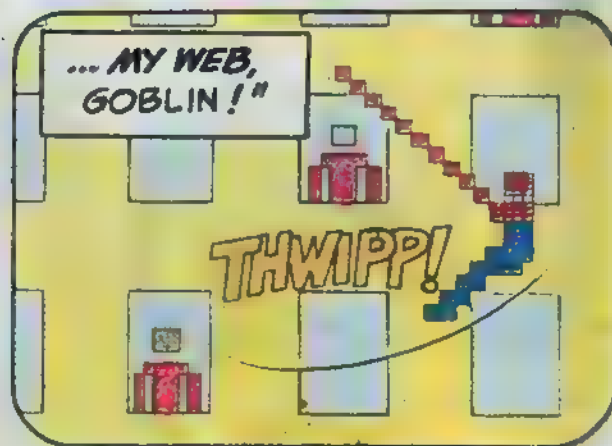
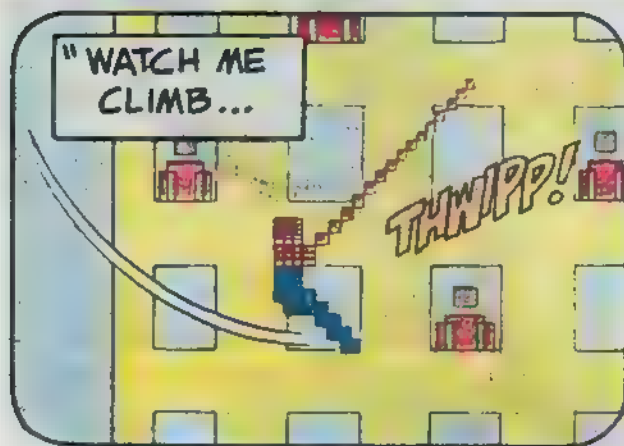
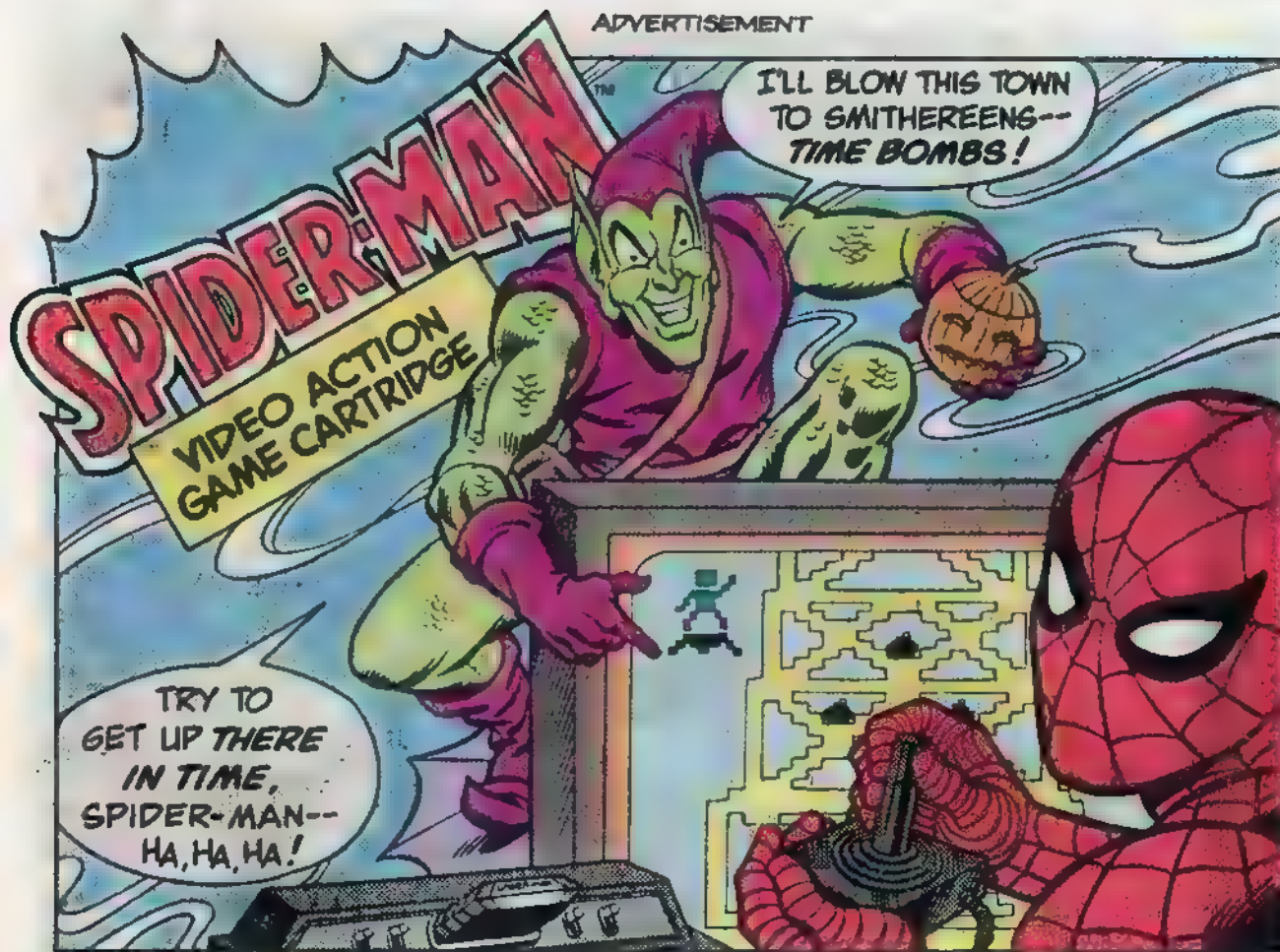
WE ARE HARDLY SWINDLERS, SIR. THIS DOCUMENT CONCLUSIVELY PROVES--

BULL! LET'S JUST TAKE A LOOK AT THIS SO-CALLED "DOCUMENT."









The Goblin's time bombs are ticking away. And his Super Bombs sit fiendishly up on High Voltage Towers. The city is on its knees.

Only Spider-Man's spidey powers can get us out of this! Thwipp! He shoots his web and swings up the buildings to reach the bombs.

Thwipp! He shoots again, escaping the Goblin on his web-cutting jet glider.

But watch out! Goblin and his warped gang of criminals have more sneaky ways to cut your web and plunge you to the streets below.

Can you get Spider-Man to the bombs in time? Your web fluid is getting lower. And time is ticking away. . . .

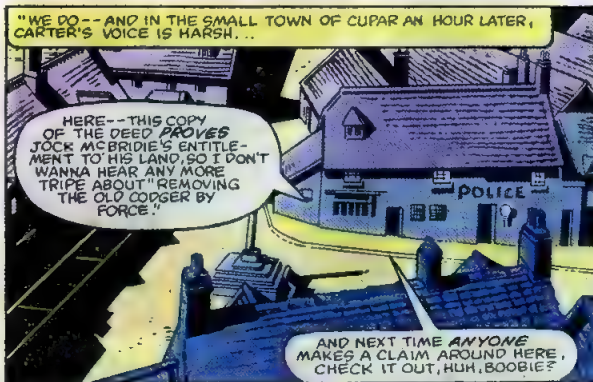


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"WE DO-- AND IN THE SMALL TOWN OF CUPAR AN HOUR LATER, CARTER'S VOICE IS HARSH..."

HERE-- THIS COPY OF THE DEED PROVES JOCK MCBRIDIE'S ENTITLEMENT TO HIS LAND, SO I DON'T WANNA HEAR ANY MORE TRIPE ABOUT "REMOVING THE OLD COOPER BY FORCE."

AND NEXT TIME ANYONE MAKES A CLAIM AROUND HERE, CHECK IT OUT, HUH, BOOBIES?



SO THAT'S THAT. NOW LET'S US WASTE A FEW HOURS ON SOME REAL FOOD, BABE, AND TIME OUR RETURN FOR DUSK--

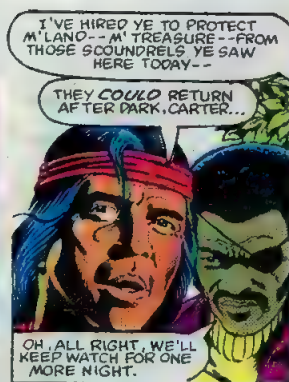
-- WHEN HE'S FINISHED WITH THAT EAR-BLASTIN' SQUAWK-BAG.

FINE WITH ME, CARTER-- BUT DO YOU ALWAYS SPEND SO MUCH TIME ON EATING?



"DUSK... MR. MCBRIDIE-- THE LAND'S YOURS, FREE AND CLEAR. THE NAME'S JOCK TAE YE MR. CARTER--

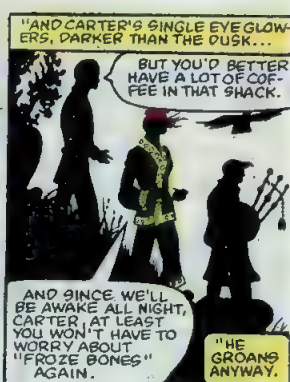
-- BUT YE AIN'T LEAVIN' NOO?



I'VE HIRED YE TO PROTECT M' LAND-- M' TREASURE-- FROM THOSE SCOUNDRELS YE SAW HERE TODAY--

THEY COULD RETURN AFTER DARK, CARTER--

OH, ALL RIGHT, WE'LL KEEP WATCH FOR ONE MORE NIGHT.

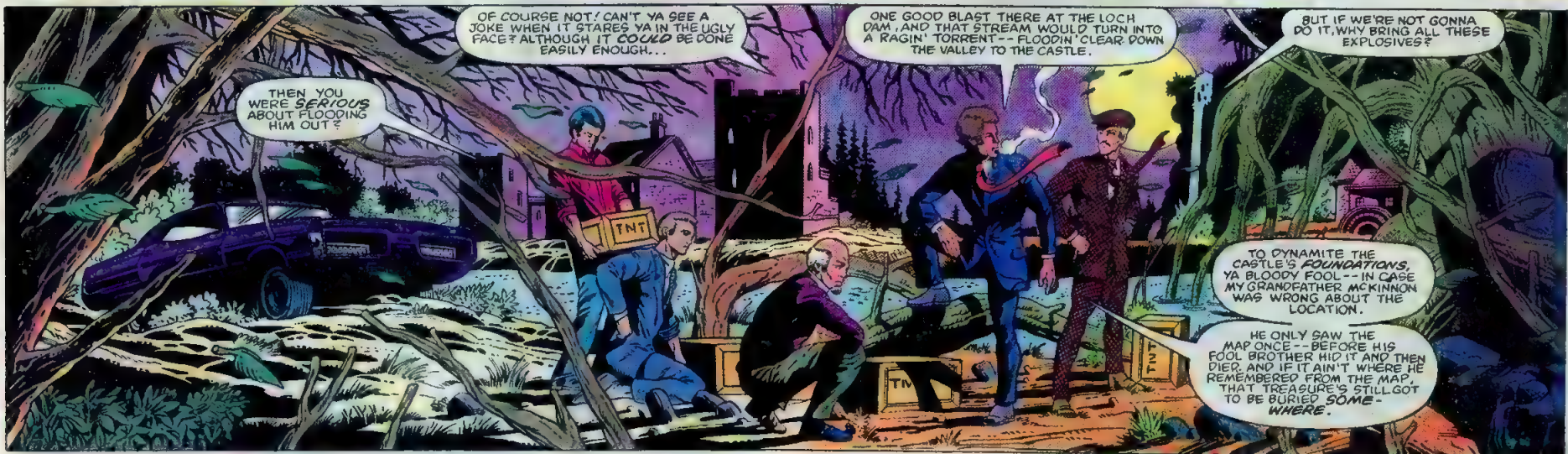


"AND CARTER'S SINGLE EYE GLOWERS, DARKER THAN THE DUSK..."

BUT YOU'D BETTER HAVE A LOT OF COFFEE IN THAT SHACK.

AND SINCE WE'LL BE AWAKE ALL NIGHT, CARTER, AT LEAST YOU WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT "FROZE BONES" AGAIN.

"HE GROANS ANYWAY."



THEN YOU WERE SERIOUS ABOUT FLOODING HIM OUT?

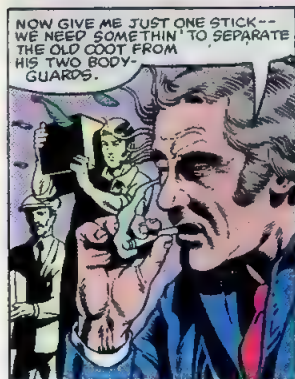
OF COURSE NOT! CAN'T YA SEE A JOKE WHEN IT STARES YA IN THE UGLY FACE? ALTHOUGH IT COULD BE DONE EASILY ENOUGH...

ONE GOOD BLAST THERE AT THE LOCH DAM, AND THAT STREAM WOULD TURN INTO A RAGIN' TORRENT-- FLOODIN' CLEAR DOWN THE VALLEY TO THE CASTLE.

BUT IF WE'RE NOT GONNA DO IT, WHY BRING ALL THESE EXPLOSIVES?

TO DYNAMITE THE CASTLE'S FOUNDATIONS, YA BLOODY FOOL-- IN CASE MY GRANDFATHER MCKINNON WAS WRONG ABOUT THE LOCATION.

HE ONLY SAW THE MAP ONCE-- BEFORE HIS FOOL BROTHER HID IT AND THEN DIED. AND IF IT AIN'T WHERE HE REMEMBERED FROM THE MAP, THAT TREASURE'S STILL GOT TO BE BURIED SOMEWHERE.



NOW GIVE ME JUST ONE STICK-- WE NEED SOMETHIN' TO SEPARATE THE OLD COOT FROM HIS TWO BODY-GUARDS.



JUST WEAR YER SHIRT, MCKINNON-- ONCE WE CRACK OPEN ONE O' THESE CRATES, YE CAN HAVE YER PICK.



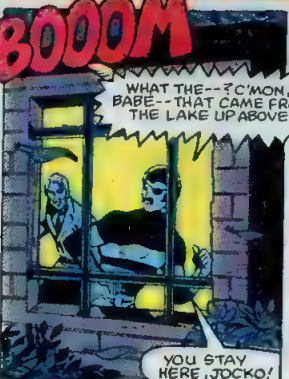
IT'S A GRAY NIGHT-- THE FOG LYIN' THICK AN' HEAVY, ROLLIN' OVER THE MOORS OF THE LOWLANDS-- I CAN FEEL IT IN MUH VERY BONES.



THIS NIGHT WAS MADE FER EVIL, ONE-EYED CARTER... VILE EVIL...

EASY, JOCKO-- IF YOU'RE TRYIN' TO SPOOK ME...

THE DEAD SHALL RISE FROM THEIR GRAVES THIS NIGHT... AND A GHOST SHALL WALK THROUGH THE FOG... AND--



BOOOM

WHAT THE--? C'MON, BABE-- THAT CAME FROM THE LAKE UP ABOVE!

YOU STAY HERE, JOCKO!



WE'LL TAKE IT FAST BUT QUIET, BABE-- HIT 'EM LIKE SHADOW-GHOSTS OURSELVES!

"YES... BUT ONE THING TROUBLES ME..."



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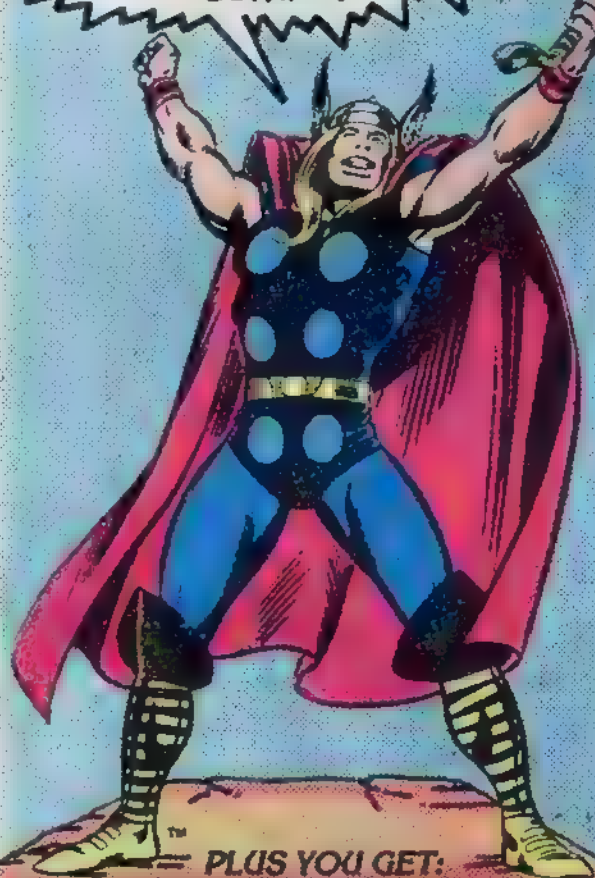
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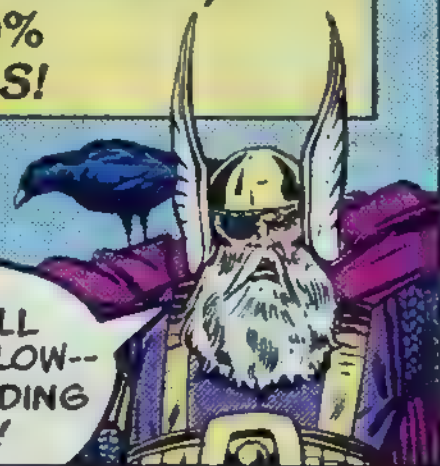
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"WE HAVE LEFT  
MCBRIDIE ALONE..."

FREEZE  
RIGHT THERE,  
YA OLD  
BUZZARD!

I KNEW  
IT WOULD  
HAPPEN  
TONIGHT...



YE'RE POSSESSED BY THE  
EVIL OF THE MCKINNONS, YE  
ARE, BUT YE DON'T FRIGHTEN  
ME...



YE'LL NEVER FRIGHTEN  
THE LAST OF THE  
MCBRIDIES!



THINK THAT  
WAS LOUD  
ENOUGH TO  
DRAW 'EM  
AWAY?

QUIET, YA BLOODY  
FOOL! IF IT WASN'T,  
YER *BIG MOUTH*'LL  
CERTAINLY DO THE  
TRICK!



BLAZES! WE WERE DUMMIES--  
LEFT JOCKO ALL ALONE BACK  
THERE! IT WAS A SET-UP!

YOU GET  
BACK TO THE  
SHACK, BABE--  
FAST--AND I'LL  
STAY WITH  
THESE TWO!

"AGAIN YES--BUT ALSO AGAIN...  
SOMETHING STILL TROUBLES ME..."



WHERE *IS* IT?! TELL US  
WHERE TO FIND THE GOLD  
AND THE PAIN'LL STOP!

REFUSE, AND  
WE'LL JUST KEEP  
BEATIN' ON YA! WE'VE  
GOT NOTHIN' TO  
LOSE!



MCKINNON--  
SOMEONE'S  
COMIN'!

IT'S THE BLACK  
ONE--FROM THIS  
MORNING!





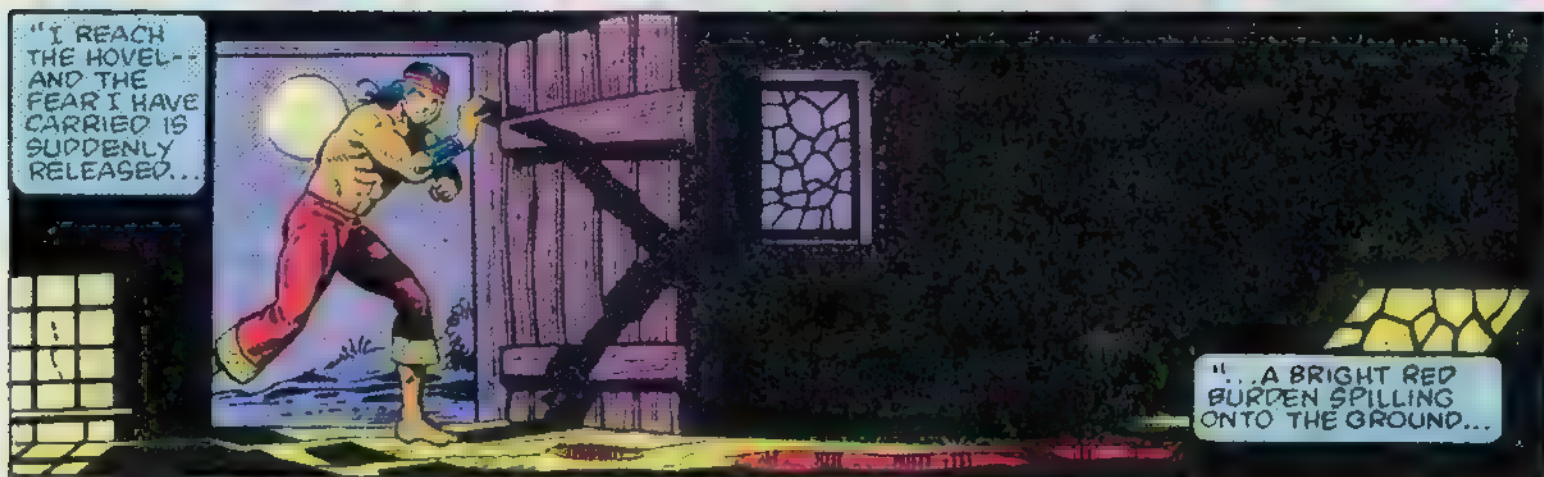
THAT'S RIGHT, SCUM--AND I'M EVEN BLACKER IN THE DARK!



BUT NOT *NEARLY* AS BLACK AS THE PLACE YOU TWO ARE GOING TO VISIT...



NAMELY--THE LAND OF THE SUPER MIDNIGHT!



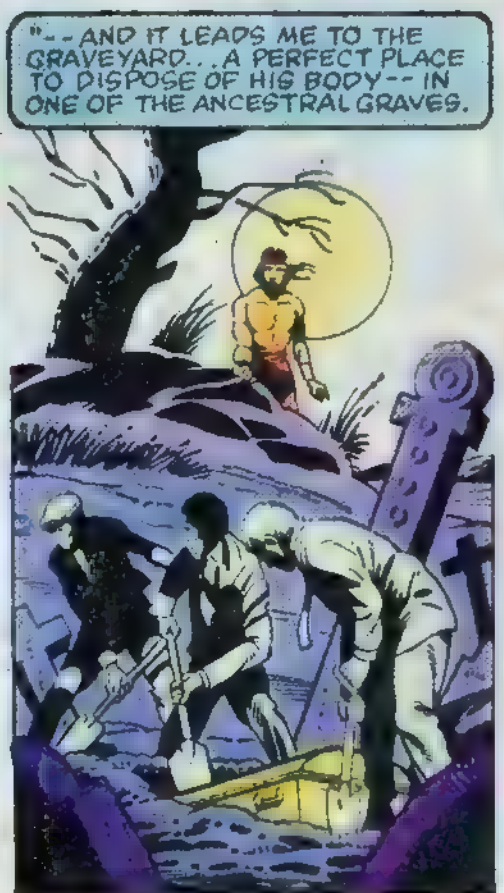
"I REACH THE HOVEL--AND THE FEAR I HAVE CARRIED IS SUDDENLY RELEASED..."

"...A BRIGHT RED BURDEN SPILLING ONTO THE GROUND..."



"...AND LEADING FROM THE SHACK INTO THE WOODS."

"I FOLLOW IT, A RAGGED TRAIL OF JOCK MCBRIDE'S BLOOD--"



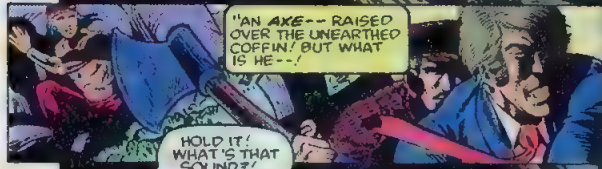
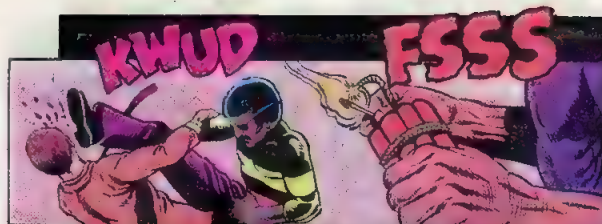
"--AND IT LEADS ME TO THE GRAVEYARD...A PERFECT PLACE TO DISPOSE OF HIS BODY--IN ONE OF THE ANCESTRAL GRAVES."



"STILL, IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE THAT IN MERE MINUTES THE STRONG AND VIBRANT LIFE-FORCE OF A MAN WHO HAS DEFIED SO MANY TENS OF YEARS..."

"...HAS BEEN WIPE'D FROM THE WORLD."



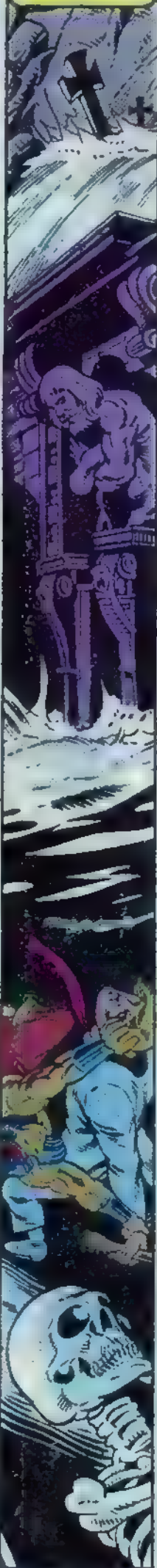




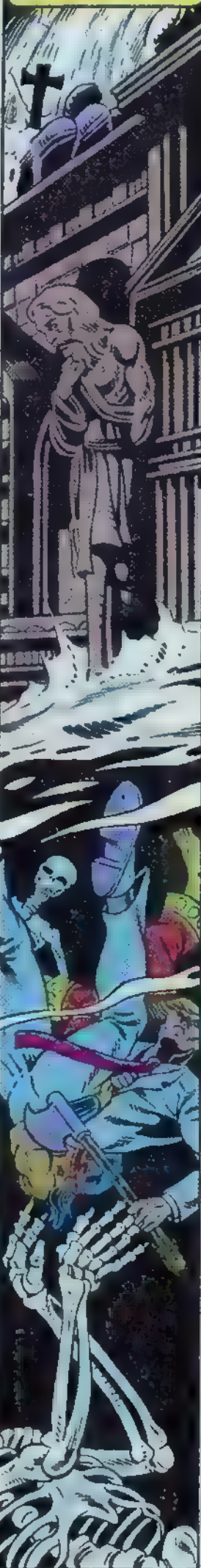
"THE ONE WITH THE AXE-- TUMBLING TOWARD ME..."



"IN PANIC, HE ATTACKS!"



"OR IS IT MORE THAN PANIC?"



"DOES HE STILL HOPE TO SLAY ANYONE WHO COMES BETWEEN HIM AND THE MYTHICAL TREASURE...?"



"EVEN NOW--? EVEN AS DEATH SEEKS TO EMBRACE US ALL--?"



"IT DOES NOT MATTER."

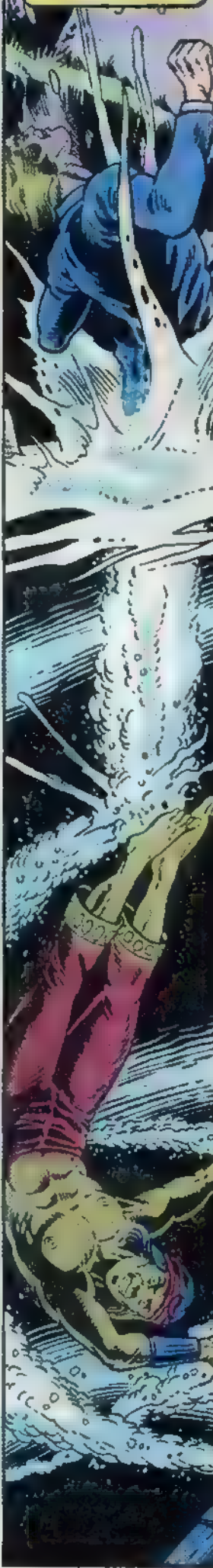
"MY LIFE IS THREATENED BY AXE AS WELL AS BY FLOOD."



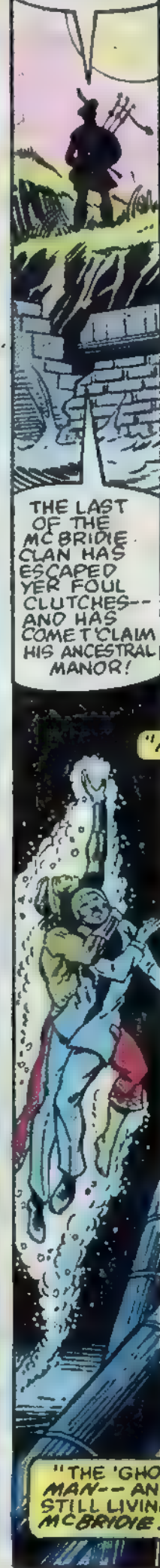
"BOTH THREATS MUST BE MET--"

"-- AND OVERCOME."

"THE GHOSTLY PIPES HALT."



"HEAR ME, MCKINNON'S DEAD AND ALIVE!"



"THE LAST OF THE MCKINNON CLAN HAS ESCAPED YER FOUL CLUTCHES-- AND HAS COME T'CLAIM HIS ANCESTRAL MANOR!"

"MCBRIDE!"

"THE 'GHOST' IS A MAN-- AND THE MAN, STILL LIVING, IS JOCK MCKBRIDE!"



# BULLPEN BULLETINS

## A COUPLE OF THINGS WENT WRONG LAST MONTH...

First, I was so late with the Bullpen Bulletins manuscript that a number of Marvel Comics had to be printed and shipped without it! An ad was inserted in its place at the printer's.

Second, when the Bullpen Page finally got done, it was so late that I couldn't take the time to check it over properly before it went out. As a result, a photo of the Marvel folks in attendance at the wedding of star writer Roger Stern and lovely Carmela Merlo was printed *half* the size I'd intended, and therefore looked a lot like mud.

## HERE'S WHY!

Last month I was on the road for almost three weeks, attending the spectacular San Diego Convention in sunny southern California, and the incredible Chicago Con in the wonderful Windy City. I took my briefcase and a large portfolio, both full of work, along with me... but while I was in San Diego - I admit it - I succumbed to temptation. I spent two whole days plus a stolen afternoon or three relaxing. I played raquetball and lifted weights at the hotel's health spa. I went swimming in the hotel pool, jogging along the scenic waterfront, body surfing at the beach, and partying far into the night. I was joined in these thoroughly irresponsible activities by some of my favorite people - Joe Rubinstein, Jim Starlin and his wife Daina Graziunas, Bill Sienkiewicz, John Byrne and his wife Andrea, Carl Potts and Christie Scheele. It was wonderful - the nearest thing I've had to a vacation in about seven years.

The price for those couple of days off was high. The Bullpen Bulletins did not appear in a number of Marvel titles, and where it did, the photo it carried was naught but a blur. My fault. All my fault.

## WHAT'S BEING DONE...

Well, I've already arranged for several of your favorite Marvel personalities to do guest columns which will appear on this page every once in a while when I think you folks out there need a change of pace - or when I'm in a jam! Also, I'm going to print another picture of Roger and Carmela when I run his guest column. Also, they made me give back my salary for last month...

## OKAY, ON WITH NEW BUSINESS!

Did anyone not see the nifty, sixteen-page Marvel Comics Guide to Comic Collecting which was included in every single copy of *The Amazing Spider-Man* #234? From the response we received it's the most popular bonus feature ever offered in a comic book! If you somehow missed it, head for (or write to) the comics specialty shop nearest you. Many of them ordered a bunch of extra copies of *Spider-Man* #234 and of the Guide by itself, and they may still have a few left. If you don't know of any comics specialty shops near you, check the ads in this comic! Many shops and distributors advertise in Marvel publications. Or, write to me. I'll get back

to you with a list of shops in your general area. Speaking of such shops, I'd like to thank the folks from SUNSHINE COMICS, located at 6370 BIRD ROAD, SOUTH MIAMI, FLORIDA 33155 for their help and cooperation, without which we couldn't have published the Collector's Guide. They originated the guide, and did hundreds of thousands of collectors across the country a service by allowing us to publish and widely distribute it. Thanks, folks!

## MARVEL TROUNCES WARREN!

Thought you'd like to know that on August 3, 1982 the Bullpen Bombers trashed the Warren Warriors on the softball field by a score of 20-1. Our left-fielder and manager Robbie Carosella led the attack with five hits in six at bats, including two homers.

Here's the line-up:

RF - Archie Goodwin, Editorial Director of *EPIC* - 4 for 6; LF - Robbie Carosella, Photostat Operator - 5 for 6; SS - Harry Eisenstein, Mail Clerk - D for 5 (but brilliant in the field); 1B - Jim Shooter, Editor-in-Chief - 2 for 5; CF - Ken Fedunewicz, Special Projects Production - 2 for 5; 3B - Nel Yomtov, Merchandising Development - 4 for 5; P - John Morelli, Letterer/Correctionist - 4 for 5; 2B - Lance Took, Assistant Editor - 4 for 5; SC - Ken Lopez, Production Assistant - 2 for 5

We had 'em all the way!

## I HAVE TO MENTION...

...that in San Diego, at their annual awards banquet, our own Archie Goodwin, Editorial Director of *EPIC Illustrated Magazine*, was honored with the prestigious Inkpot Award, acknowledging his contribution to the comics industry. If you want to see one reason why, buy or borrow a copy of *EPIC*. It'll convince you. A bunch of other Marvel folks have received Inkpots as well over the years. I'll run a complete list here sometime soon.

## A WEEK LATER...

...in Chicago, at the Con, disaster nearly struck! You see *Spider-Man* was there, live and in person to give away free copies of the latest issues of *The Amazing Spider-Man* to the fans in attendance. The trouble was the shipment of comics never arrived! Fortunately, yours truly happened to bump into old Webhead in his hour of need, and I just happened to be carrying a hundred or so coupons, each good for a free subscription to any Marvel title. I promptly turned the coupons over to our hero, who found them an extremely effective substitute for his missing freebie comics. No problem. Now he owes me one. Just goes to show you, the Boy Scouts are right. Always be prepared.

## IT'S ABOUT TIME...

...that I gave Eliot Brown some credit. He's the guy who typesets this thing (and almost every other thing) every month... and he does a darn good job, and we're grateful. But, typesetting

isn't his *only* trick. He's also our resident photographer. He took the stunning photo which graced the cover of *Dazzler* #21 - as well as most of the other photos that have appeared in Marvel Comics in recent years. If a photo isn't credited otherwise, chances are it's Eliot's work. I should mention, too, that Eliot is our resident technical expert. If something's broken, he can fix it - if something's complicated, he can explain it - if you've got a problem, he can solve it. He draws - and he's especially good at technical drawing, like blueprints, diagrams, cutaways, mechanical drawing - he inks, he colors, he designs, he does boardwork, and other stuff, too, that I can't think of. Best of all, he's a real trouper who's stayed here at the office all night many times helping desperate artists and editors make deadlines. He's probably blushing now, as he typesets this - he's such a humble guy!

*Well, Jim, I just don't know what to say, but I think that I'd like to take this singular opportunity to thank all the little people whose coattails I've ridden; when I think of Marvel Comics, the image of selfless comradeship almost, almost brings a tear to my eye, the hours of bonhomie, shoulder to shoulder... I can't go on - well, yes I could, but Jim is sliding his forefinger across his throat. Hmm. Thanks, Jim.*

*Eliot R. Brown*

But I couldn't pass this opportunity to let him know he's appreciated! Hooray, Eliot!

## CONGRATULATIONS...

...are in order for my former secretary Franki Sienkiewicz. Being my secretary has got to be the toughest job in the place (tied, maybe, with the Traffic Manager job, which Virginia Romita handles so well!). It involves representing Marvel to the world and the freelancers, handling an enormous workload including tons of memos, letters and complicated projects, all of them urgent and important, supervising three or more office assistants and putting up with me. Franki took it all in stride - so well, in fact, that she received an impressive promotion. She's now Administrative Manager of International Licensing. Whew! I feel like I should salute even when I just write that title! I think what it means is, that she's in charge of Europe... or maybe just NATO.

Congratulations, Franki!

## MY NEW SECRETARY...

Pardon me, my new Administrative Assistant - the job grew a lot while Franki had it, because she was always eagerly shouldering more responsibility, so we had to change the title - is Lea Sapp. Lea is doing a great job and is already making me forget about ol' whatsemame. Heh, heh. Just kidding, Franki.

## GOTTA GO!

I think I see some NATO bombers headed this way!

Best,

*Jim*



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BUT THEN... WHO--  
OR WHAT-- WAS IN  
THAT COFFIN?

IT LIES NOO AT OUR VERY  
FEET. SHANG-CHI-- SWEEP  
HERE AND SMASHED BY  
THE FLOOD.

SEE FER  
YERSELF,  
LAD...

'T WAS NOT BURYIN' THEY WERE UP  
TO-- BUT RATHER DIGGIN' UP MUH  
TREASURE... THE LONG-LOST  
GOLD OF THE EAGLE, LIAM  
MCBRIDIE!

"THEN, CARTER,  
TOO, HAS SURVIVED  
THE FLOOD.

CIA LESSON  
NUMBER ONE,  
BABE...

CAMOUFLAGE--  
THE ART OF  
CONCEALING  
THAT SOME-  
THING HAS  
BEEN CON-  
CEALED.

"I SHOULD  
HAVE KNOWN.

"DAWN...

NO WAY, 'M MAN -- AFTER  
LAST NIGHT, AIN'T NO WAY  
I WANNA BE HAUNTED BY  
THAT GOLD.

ARE YE  
SURE YE WON'T  
RECONSIDER,  
MR. CARTER?

SERVICES RENDERED  
FOR FREE -- YOU JUST  
USE YOUR FORTUNE TO  
RESTORE THAT CASTLE,  
HEAR?

YE'RE FIT TAE WALK THE  
HIGHLANDS, YE ARE, BOTH  
OF YE -- AND ONNY TIME  
YE FEEL LIKE PACIN' OFF  
A PIECE O' M' HILL...

... I ASSURE YE,  
THE EAGLE'LL BE  
SMILIN' DOWN  
FROM ON HIGH.

THAT I-  
KNOW, MR. CARTER.  
DO YE KEN?

"AND WITH A SAVING BLINK  
AT A NEARLY SHED TEAR...

"... JOCK MCBRIDIE  
PIVOTS SMARTLY  
TOWARD THE SUN,  
TOWARD THE HEATHER-  
SWATHED HILL HE  
WILL SOON CONQUER  
AGAIN...

"... FILLING HIS  
PLAID BAG WITH  
AIR, AND THE AIR  
ITSELF WITH THE  
STIRRING SKIRL  
OF A SCOTTISH  
VICTORY MATCH.

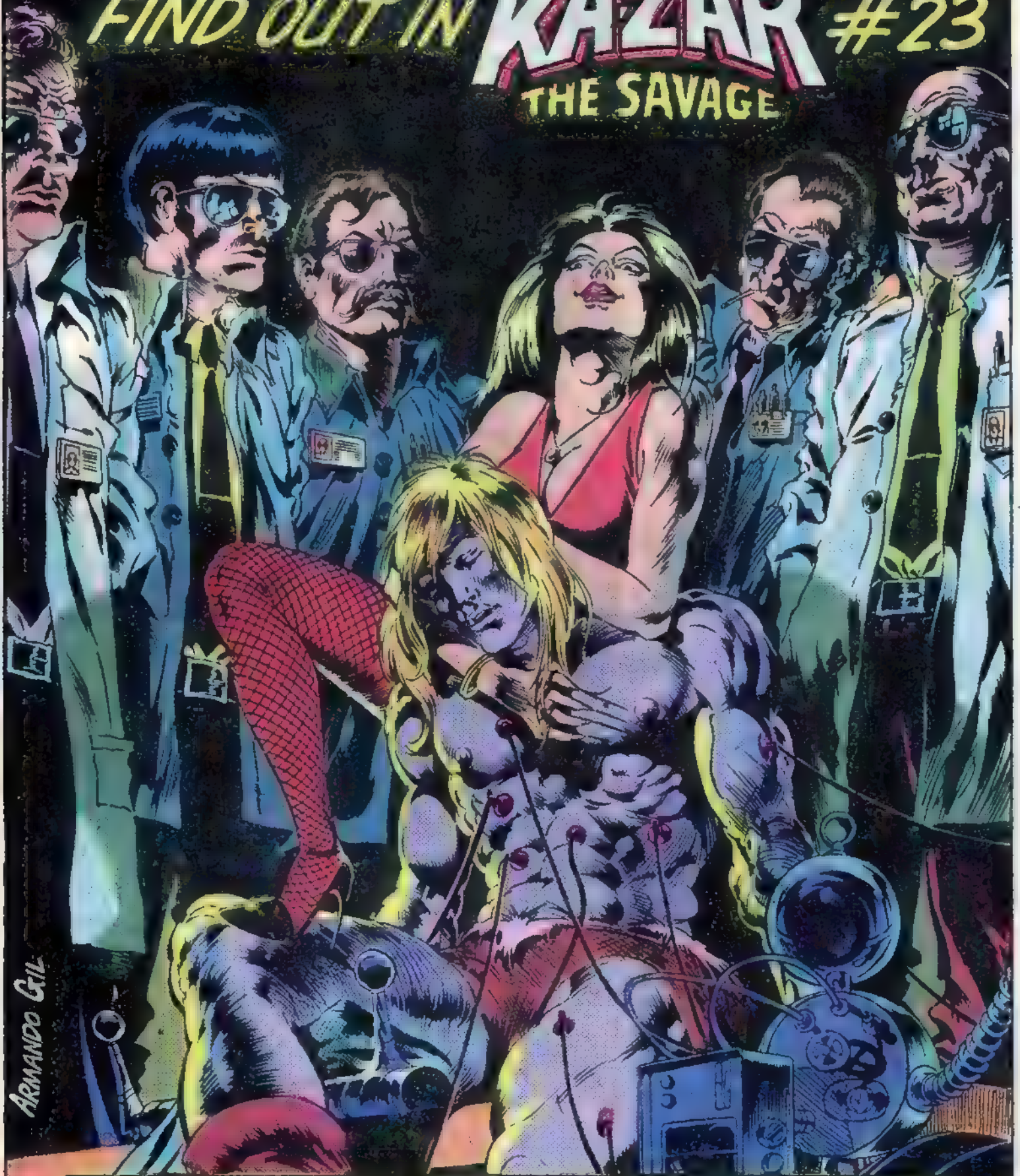
"MARCH ON, MCBRIDIE,  
AND LEAD THE VAST SOUND  
OF YOUR BREATH TO FINER  
DAYS."

END



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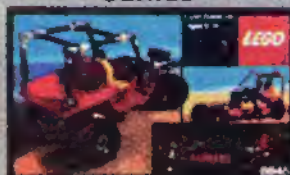
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